Staines Gasworks, where some excavations were in progress. They comprise :—

Vitrea crystallina (Müll.).
V. nitidula (Drap.).
Zonitoides nitidus (Müll.).
Pyramidula rotundata (Müll.).
Hygromia hispida (L.).
H. rufescens (Penn.).
Vallonia pulchella (Müll.).
V. costata (Müll.).
V. excentrica, Sterki.
Helix nemoralis, L.
H. hortensis, Müll.
Cochlicopa lubrica (Müll.).
Jaminia muscorum (L.).
Vertigo pygmæa (Drap.).
V. antivertigo (Drap.).
Clausilia laminata (Mont.).
Succinea putris (L.).
S. elegans, Risso.
Carychium minimum, Müll.
Ancylus fluviatilis, Müll.
Acroloxus lacustris (L.).
Limnæa auricularia (L.).
L. peregra (Müll.).
L. palustris (Müll.).
L. truncatula (Müll.).
L. stagnalis (L.).
Amphipeplea glutinosa (Müll.).
Planorbis corneus (L.).
P. albus, Müll.
P. Stroemi, West.
P. crista (L.).
P. carinatus, Müll.
P. umbilicatus, Müll.
P. vortex (L.).
P. spirorbis (L.).
P. contortus (L.).
P. fontanus (Lightfoot).
Physa fontinalis (L.).
Bithynia tentaculata (L.).
B. Leachii (Shepp.).
Valvata piscinalis (Müll.).
V. cristata, Müll.
Neritina fluviatilis (L.).
Sphærium corneum (L.).
Pisidium amnicum (Müll.).
P. Henslowianum (Shepp.).
P. subtruncatum, Malm.
P. pulchellum, Jenyns.
P. pusillum (Gmel.).
P. Gassiesianum, Dupuy.

The *Pisidia*, however, are not fully worked out, so quite possibly the remaining three British species are also represented.

Several species found by Messrs. Kennard & Woodward did not occur in this section; the only two species additional to their list are *Helix hortensis* and *Vallonia costata*. Perhaps the most interesting find was the one example of *Amphipeplea glutinosa*. J. E. Cooper.

Note on the occurrence of Pearls in *Haliotis gigantea* and *Pecten* sp.—Mr. R. Gordon Smith, who has recently returned from a visit to Japan, has presented various interesting zoological collections to the British Museum, and among them are the pearls now exhibited.

It is a well-known fact that pearls are produced by both Gastropods and Bivalves, and that they occur more frequently in the latter. They have already been recorded from the genera *Strombus*, *Turbinella*, *Haliotis*, *Margaritifera*, *Placuna*, *Malleus*, *Mytilus*, *Modiola*, *Pinna*, *Anomia*, *Ostrea*, *Spondylus*, *Arca*, *Tridacna*, *Hippopus*, *Donax*, *Tellina*, *Unio*, and *Anodonta*, and there does not appear to be any special reason why other genera of Pelecypoda should not be pearl-producing if infested by the larvæ of Cestode and other worms. I now have to record the occurrence of pearls in *Haliotis gigantea* and a species of *Pecten*. Experiments with regard to the artificial production of pearls in *Haliotis* have been made by M. Louis Boutan, but their actual natural occurrence in that genus has, I believe, only once been noted hitherto.[1] Some of the *Haliotis* pearls brought home by Mr. Gordon Smith are of beautiful lustre and very large, measuring as much as 24 millimetres ($\frac{15}{16}$ inch) in length. They are often bean-shaped, and generally somewhat compressed. They are found in the *Haliotis gigantea* ('Awabi' of the Japanese), and

[1] J. Keep : Nautilus, 1890, vol. iv, p. 15.

frequently the most rugged and irregular specimens are the most productive. Doubtless some of these pearls, on account of their exceptional size and brilliance, must possess a very considerable commercial value. The *Pecten* pearls are semi-transparent white, covered to a great extent with a close opaque white mottling, and are of various shapes and sizes. These are probably not of so much money-value, as they do not exhibit the nacreous lustre of the orient pearl. A magnificent pearl in Mr. Gordon Smith's possession, which he informs me was found in a *Pinna*, is intensely black and almost perfectly spherical. It is very brilliant, unique in size, weighing 55 grains, and is valued at some hundreds of pounds by its possessor.

The *Mytilus* pearls from Japan are beautifully lustrous, more or less round, dark greenish grey or bluish black. We do not know the cause of these pearls in the *Haliotis*, the *Pecten*, or the *Mytilus* from Japan. The origin of them in the European mussel has been traced to the presence of the larval stages of Trematode worms,[1] and therefore it is highly probable that the Japanese pearls may have a similar origin. With regard to the *Haliotis* and *Pecten* pearls we should expect their occurrence to be due to the same or like causes.

Mr. Gordon Smith informs me that the *Haliotis* shells are dived for mostly by women, 18 Japanese fathoms of 5 feet being the limit of the depth attainable by them, though doubtless the shells occur at greater depths. The pearls are exceedingly rare. E. A. Smith.

The name *Bourcieria*. (*Read* 14*th June*, 1907.)—Recently, working at some operculate land shells, my attention has been called to the genus *Bourcieria*, Pfr. It was proposed by him (Zeitschr. Malak., vol. viii, p. 178) in January, 1852, for *B. helicinæformis*, Pfr.

Unfortunately Mons. Bourcier had already, in 1850, been honoured by the genus *Bourcieria*, by Bonaparte in Birds—Trochilidæ (see C.R. Ac. Paris, vol. xxx, p. 380).

Both names cannot stand in Zoology, and I propose to rename the Molluscan genus *Pseudhelicina*, taking as type the species proposed by Pfeiffer. E. R. Sykes.

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[1] See Jameson, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1902, vol. i, p. 140; also Herdman, "Pearl Production," Report Pearl Oyster Fisheries of the Gulf of Manaar, pt. v (1906).